IN THE CLAIMS:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (new) A method for optimized color reproduction of a color original image by a color reproduction device, comprising the steps of:

determining color values of a color space of the original image;

determining a color space of the color reproduction device;

comparing the color spaces of the original image and of the color reproduction device and establishing which color range of the original image cannot be reproduced by the color reproduction device;

via a color adaption method, providing only one adaptation of the non-reproducible color range of the original image, and of a boundary range bordering this non-reproducible color range, to the color space of the color reproduction device, and then generating an image-specific color association; and

outputting the original image by the image reproduction device according to the image-specific color association.

12. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein for creation of the image-specific color association, an adaptation of the color space of the original image to that of the image reproduction device occurs when the color space of the original image does not lie wihtin the color space of the color reproduction device.

13. (new) A method according to cliam 12 wherein an image-independent standard color association is loaded when the color space of the color reproduction device covers the color space of the original image.

14. (new) A method according to claim 13 wherein the standard color association comprises the color association characterizing the color transfer properties of the color reproduction device.

15. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein for the determination of the color association of the color reproduction device, the color values necessary for the determination are smoothed.

16. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein the color association is stored in a table as a profile of the color reproduction.

17. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein the color association is stored as a function.

18. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein the color reproduction device comprises a printer.

19. (new) A method according to claim 18 wherein the printer comprises an electrophotographic printer.

20. (new) A method according to claim 11 wherein the output original image comprises a proof which is output in a proof device.

21. (new) A method for substantially optimizing a color reproduction of a color original image by a color reproduction device, comprising the steps of:

determining color values of a color space of the original image;

determining a color space of the color reproduction device;

comparing the color spaces of the original image and of the color reproduction device and establishing which color range of the original image cannot be reproduced by the color reproduction device;

via a color adaption method, providing an adaptation of the non-reproducible color range of the original image, and of a boundary range bordering this non-reproducible color range, to the color space of the color reproduction device, and then generating an image-specific color association; and

outputting the original image by the image reproduction device according to the image-specific color association.